THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS

MILLENNIAL STAR.

"Holiness unto the Lord."

No. 23, Vol. XXXIV. Tuesday, June 4, 1872. Price One Penny.

A STATE GOVERNMENT FOR UTAH.

The Constitution of the State of Deseret was submitted to the President of the United States and presented in both houses of Congress on Tuesday, April 2, 1872, and referred to the Committee on Territories. Tuesday, April 23, was appointed for a consideration of the subject, at which time Hon. Frank Fuller, (member of Congress elect from the State of Deseret,) addressed the committee of the House, consisting of the following gentlemen — Hons. John Taffe, of Nebraska; Geo. C. McKee, of Mississippi; Elizur H. Prindle, of New York; Isaac C. Parker, of Missouri; David P. Lowe, of Kansas; Lazarus D. Shoemaker, of Pennsylvania; William H. Barnum, of Connecticut; William W. Vaughan, of Tennessee; Frank Hereford, of West Virginia, and Jerome B. Chaffee, of Colorado.

Mr. Fuller spoke as follows—

Mr. Chairman, and Gentlemen of the Committee—I am grateful for the opportunity which you have afforded me and my colleagues, the delegates bearing the Constitution of the State of Deseret, to present to you, and to the Congress of which you are members, some of the reasons which impel us, and a majority of the citizens of that division of our common country, to ask for it admission into the family of States. Sustained by a large and intelligent constituency, not less than by the demands of justice and humanity, and urged onward by the needs of that commerce which is foremost in the march of empire, I enter with real satisfaction upon the task assigned me this morning.

At the last session of the Legislature of the Territory of Utah, the people were invited, by a joint resolution of both houses, to send delegates from all sections of the Territory to a convention for the purpose of framing a Constitution, under which, if ratified by a majority of the people, admission as a State should be sought. The convention was held, a Constitution was framed, a large majority of the people signified their acceptance of its provisions, and the duty of presenting it to the President of the United States and to Congress was intrusted to us: to Congress, because the Constitution of the United States confers upon Congress the power to admit new States with the consent of such State; to the President, because in the legislative acts of Congress the President is constitutionally joined. We waited for no enabling act; but, as our needs are great, we have followed the illus-

trious examples of eight existing States of the Union, admitted without that formality, and are here to ask admission under the Constitution prepared as the voluntary act of the people of Utah. This, one party to the contract desired; and having indicated their full and free consent thereto, the Constitution is now properly before you for consideration. It is the result of the careful thought of about one hundred mature minds. It will fairly sustain the most searching examination. It will be found, on critical inquiry, to possess those republican characteristics which, by the Constitution of the United States, Congress is bound to secure to each State. The aim has been to unite in one instrument all the excellencies contained in the Constitutions of the thirty-seven preceding States. Upon it is irrevocably engrafted entire adhesion to all the provisions of the Constitution of the United States; freedom for all mankind; perfect toleration for all modes of worship; a surrender of all claim to the public domain and equal taxation for resident and non-resident property-holders. It further provides for minority representation in the Legislature by cumulative voting; for equality of the sexes in the exercise of suffrage; for legislation which shall guarantee to persons of all races, colors and religions, ample and equal rights and privileges of education; asserts the obligation of paramount allegiance of every citizen to the Federal government; and proposes to submit to the people whatever amendments Congress may see fit to make thereto; which amendments, if adopted, shall remain in full force, to be revoked only by the act of Congress and the people. Accompanying the Constitution is a memorial which expresses the unanimous sentiment of the convention upon the subject of admission, and presents in appropriate language some of the reasons in favor of the measure.

I am of the opinion that the Constitution—a few of the prominent features of which I have briefly summarized—will not be found inferior, as a basis for a truly republican State, to any existing; in some respects I believe it to be superior to all others. The effort has been to embrace within its provisions all those improvements in the economy of government which the history of the past and the experiences of the century have established, demanded or foreshadowed. If it contain errors, they will be found to be in the interest of liberality and humanity, never in support of the strong against the weak. It may need to be pruned of its redundancy of too vigorous republicanism, but you will find no knotted, gnarled, deformed outgrowth of tyranny to lop off. We have endeavored to draft such an instrument as will secure good government to a large and growing community. We believe it will be acceptable to Congress. If not, the right of amendment, revision, or total rejection remains with you. To the discussion of any amendment, or of any revision, or to a proposition for the entire reconstruction of this Constitution, I will cheerfully listen; but against the utter rejection of our petition I must earnestly protest, and to this thought I now address myself.

I assume that

UTAH HAS A JUST CLAIM TO THE PRIVILEGES OF STATEHOOD. In support of this assertion the temptation to recall to your recollection some of the facts of history is almost irresistible. You remember that the first settlers of that section of the country, chiefly natives of New England and the Middle States, left the soil of the United States and journeyed into what was not only a foreign land, but what was at that period equally an unknown and unexplored desert. They left the land of their birth, impelled thereto by threats of destruction and deeds of violence. Their westward journey commenced in 1846. In the summer of that year they crossed the Missouri river and struck out for the vast wilderness beyond. You, who have traversed that immense and desolate tract, with the rapidity of modern travel, with much of comfort and something of luxury, can form some faint idea as to what the journey must have been over a quarter of a century ago. You will readily believe that it required all the faith and courage possessed by mortals to sustain this band of people, embracing several thousands of men, women and children, during a march having no parallel in modern

history, either for the sufferings endured, the fortitude exhibited, or the simple trust which defied peril, and assured the wanderers of a haven somewhere towards the setting sun. You know full well, too, that the labor of moving unceasingly a great army like this, encumbered with the aged, the infant, and the enfeebled, would be likely to demand the best efforts of all the strong hands and active brains which such a community could supply, and you will wonder how it was that this moving mass, in the labors of which each able-bodied person had a place, could spare half a thousand of their best and bravest men for war purposes, in answer to a demand from the President of the United States. Yet the levy was made, and the troops were instantly supplied. For, before the exodus of this community from the then remote frontier of Iowa, in the early spring of 1846, Mexico felt herself aggrieved on account of the passage of a joint resolution by Congress, providing for the annexation of Texas to the Union, and war was declared between that Confederacy and the United States.

The history of the colony now under consideration, as well as the history of that war, agree that 520 men, the flower of that migrating flock, were demanded by the war-officers of the government, in the name of President Polk, for service in the field, and that they were furnished without delay. The pathway of the husband and father diverged from that of the wife and children; but the two conquering columns, still tending westward, pressed forward, the peaceful band fortifying itself in the very heart of the enemy's outlying country—the valley of the Great Salt Lake—while the soldiery marched onward to the Pacific—both forces absolute conquerors in their own peculiar sphere and with their own appropriate weapons. The discovery of gold in one of the then Mexican States has been authoritatively attributed to some members of this battalion, who, while digging a mill-race near what was then known as New Helvetia, threw up with their shovels some shining particles mixed with the sand in which they delved. You remember the excitement which followed that discovery; the vast and ever recurring waves of humanity which were washed upon that remote shore; the treaty which gave to us the land which we had won and to which our good fortune had added a new and golden appellation; the magnificent sovereign State erected in 1850 from the soil thus acquired upon the margin of the Western sea; and the other and adjoining division of that territorial acquisition erected to sovereignty upon the solid basis of her silver mountains, fourteen years later. The result has manifested the guiding hand of Providence in the annexation of Texas, the conflict with Mexico, the acquisition of an imperial domain, and the addition of States rich in the precious metals to the flourishing sisterhood.

The treaty which endowed us with these prosperous sovereignties, was wisely conceived. It was made as binding as any compact upon which two governments could mutually enter. It was of no temporary character, but its provisions were to remain in force throughout all time.

We find by the 8th and 9th articles of that treaty that those residents of the ceded territory who prefer to remain there, may either retain the title and rights of Mexican citizens, or acquire those of citizens of the United States; that they shall decide the question within one year after the ratification of the treaty; that a failure so to elect within the year shall be received as an admission that they desire to become citizens of the United States; that such of these inhabitants as shall not elect to preserve the character of citizens of the Mexican republic shall be incorporated into the Union, and be admitted at the proper time (to be judged of by the Congress of the United States) to the enjoyment of all the rights of citizens of the United States, according to the principles of the Constitution, and in the meantime shall be maintained and protected in the free enjoyment of their liberty and property, and secured in the free exercise of their religion, without restriction. Other articles provide for mutual negotiations, the appointment of commissioners, the arbitration of a friendly nation, &c., in the event that either party seemed to fail to keep its treaty

stipulations; and lay down rules for conducting a war, should the difference reach that extremity.

Now, it has been held that by the expressions of the treaty which set off to a neighboring nationality a considerable body of people, Mexico did not contemplate for that people an anomalous system of territorial government, such as has been temporarily imposed by Congress upon sparsely populated districts, but rather, that she had in view for her States thus disposed of, a form of government not less republican in character, and not less independent in fact than that which had existed prior to the cession, or than that enjoyed by other political divisions of the nation receiving the cession. The opinion has been recently expressed upon the floor of Congress by the member from Missouri (Hon. Mr. Blair,) and sustained by much cogent reasoning, that the pledge contained in the treaty to "incorporate into the Union" those citizens of the ceded country, who by their action or inaction, should decide in favor of American citizenship, and to admit them "to the enjoyments of all the rights of citizens of the United States according to the principles of the Constitution," was intended by Mexico to provide sovereign Statehood for her several dependencies at the expiration of the designated year of probation, and that this population "in the meantime"—that is during this brief period of minority—should "be maintained and protected in the free enjoyment of their liberty and property, and secured in the free exercise of their religion, without restriction." Whatever may be the opinion of gentlemen as to the period when by the treaty, the vast country thus acquired was to be broken up into sovereign States, it will, I think, be generally conceded that the argument made use of two years later, in 1850, in behalf of the admission of California—the extreme western portion of the acquisition—that early admission was contemplated by both nations—was fully authorised not only by the terms of the compact but by the genius of the two governments. It is true that at the period of the date of the treaty, Mexico was practically a subjugated nation. A portion of her outlying territory, remote from the seat of the general government had been possessed by the two advancing columns of which I have spoken—the peaceful and the warlike, while at the same time our conquering arms had been borne inward from the sea to the capital. But her nationality was intact, her legitimate rulers survived, notwithstanding the overthrow of the usurper Santa Anna, and she was competent to treat with her victors. She did not surrender a goodly portion of her domain and a multitude of her people without receiving an equivalent for the one and ample pledges for the well-being of the other. The equivalent for the territory was 15,000,000 of dollars in gold, which we paid; the pledges in behalf of the people were that they should be cared for and protected in all the rights and privileges then enjoyed, and speedily "admitted to the enjoyment of all the rights of citizens of the United States according to the principles of the Constitution." These people were not bartered as chattels. They were not sold as slaves. The Constitution of the Mexican Confederation would not permit such an act. The free, enlightened, liberty-loving spirit of its chief ruler would abhor it. Slavery in every form was prohibited in the Mexican Constitution. You remember that negro slavery existed at that period in a State of the Union upon the eastern border of the ceded territory, and that when a proposition for its annexation to that slave State was discussed in Congress, it was held by some of the ablest statesmen of the period, that such an act would not only be contrary to the genius of the Mexican republic, but would also be in utter disregard of the treaty stipulations, which contemplated the early erection of free as well as sovereign States, for the land thus disposed of, and for the people who should decide within one year thereafter to accept the terms. For one year the "eminent domain," the absolute dominion, was unconveyed, in order that the voice of the people thus wrested from the government under which by election or by the accident of birth they had found protection might be heard. That dominion when finally exercised was to assume the common, well known, well under-

stood and desirable form of the federal compact. A lasting peace was to be secured by the erection of equal and sovereign States in the immediate neighborhood. The glory of the parent government thus reluctantly parting with some of her children was to be subserved by the added greatness and power which would come to them. The ties of neighborhood would remain unbroken. The hand of friendship would be extended across the new border. These equal States of the Union, still united by the ties of commerce and contiguity with their late sisterhood, would become generous intermediaries, in the event of collision between the old government and the new. With, nominally, a voice in the Senate as potent as that enjoyed by other States, the treaty would be sure of a generous interpretation, should the power which created be called upon to construe it.

It is folly to say that no such considerations entered into the negotiations. No two individuals competent to bargain for property would have failed to reflect upon the probable results of the sale, alike to the two contracting parties and to the tenants in common whose interests were to be affected by it. What individuals could not fail to remember governments would never ignore. The natural jealousy of nations as to the severing of territory and the denationalizing of subjects, the history of the treaty as presented by Mr. Justice Clifford—the member of Mr. Polk's cabinet who acted for our government in its negotiation—and of Hon. N. P. Trist, who executed it; the declarations of senators who ratified it; and finally, the language of the instrument itself, conclusively establish the fact. The spirit of the treaty contemplated States only; whether any other system of government could be permitted under any reasonable construction of its language we will consider presently.

Probably no senator gave to the subject of that treaty, the obligations which it imposed upon us, and the effects produced by it upon the citizens of the ceded territory, more profound thought, or enunciated more fittingly its true sentiment than Mr. Seward. His able speeches in the Senate on several occasions, and particularly on two, the first on the application to admit the western portion of the section under discussion to the Union under the name of California, with a constitution framed without an enabling act; the second on the proposition to add a portion on the eastern border of the track to the State of Texas, and to give to another portion one of those mongrel establishments known as a "territorial government"—are as applicable to-day as when uttered twenty-two years ago; and it is to the shame of the government which seems to have forgotton pledges solemnly made and with all the gravity which could be imparted to the act of nations, as it is to the sorrow of that portion of the ceded territory yet held in colonial bondage, that the eloquent words of the venerable statesmen must plead for a hearing to-day. Speaking of the citizens of one portion of this acquired territory, he says—

"They are a people having rights as important and as definite as the rights of any people in the United States. They have undergone a change of sovereignty only, but in all other respects their rights are unchanged. When they lost the rights secured to them by the Constitution of Mexico, they acquired the rights of American citizens, secured to them by the Constitution of the United States. Those rights involve the protection of their lives, of their liberty, and of their territory. All these are rights of which the United States can lawfully deprive no community on earth. They may extend their conquering arm over States and territories and provinces, but it carries with it freedom and security to the subjugated countries. . . . You have covenanted to bring this region into the Union, not as a territory, not as a province, not as a colony, but as a State."

The treaty stipulations were discussed at length by Mr. Seward, when the scheme of southern statesmen was on foot for the enlargement of the area of Texas by the addition of a portion of the then newly acquired territory, and the adoption of a territorial government for another division. Mr. Seward met this with a counter-proposition—to establish new States. In his remarks

he contended that the treaty contained no provision whatever either for parceling out the ceded territory among existing States, or for bringing it into provincial or territorial degradation; that it was fair and just therefore to say that the treaty would be broken by denying to the people occupying that domain, the rights and position of a State; that it was only fair to presume that if the United States had contemplated holding indefinitely in territorial vassalage the acquired country, some expression to that effect would have found a place in the treaty, and that in the absence of such intimation it must be concluded that statehood was alone contemplated. While admitting that the right to judge of the appropriate time for such admission was reserved to Congress he still declares that no other power is so reserved, and insists that Congress has no power to create for it any form of government except the government of an equal and sovereign State; that the reservation in the treaty keeps the ceded provinces in the exact condition in which the treaty found them until admitted as States. Alluding to his proposition for immediate admission, he says—

"My proposition is most compatible and harmonious with the Constitution of the United States. It is a remarkable feature of that Constitution that its framers never contemplated colonies, or provinces, or territories at all. On the other hand they contemplated States only; nothing less than States; perfect States—equal States—as they are called here sovereign States. The stipulation in the treaty reserving to Congress the right to decide upon the time when, is to be regarded as reserving not the exercise of discretion to oppress the people . . . but a discretion to be exercised for the benefit and welfare of that people—a discretion for their good, not for their oppression and ruin. What then, is the time when they ought to be admitted? That is the only question. That time must have come whenever it shall have happened that immediate admission has become necessary to save the liberties of her people and the integrity of her territory. That is the time precisely. . . There is only one condition which the Constitution recognizes, and that is that she should present a republican form of government."

Mr. Seward's opinions with reference to the principles enunciated in the treaty, as well as the form of government contemplated by the framers of the Constitution of the United States, are entitled to great respect. He spoke as a senator, a party to a contract which he was construing, and which he was not likely to construe unfavorably to his principal the United States. In the spirit and in the letter of the compact he could discover nothing but immediate and sovereign statehood for the new acquisition. In this respect he found this new and supreme law in harmony with the great fundamental law which authorized it—the Constitution. That instrument, intended as it was for the overthrow of the last relic of colonial oppression—inspired, in fact, by the miseries inherent in that system—contemplated in his opinion a State government for each appropriate geographical or political division of the existing or prospective national domain. The spirit of the treaty was thus in consonance with the spirit of the Constitution, which gave to the treaty vitality, authority and supremacy. I think the language of both will be found in equal harmony with their spirit and intent.

In reference to the binding nature of treaties over cessions of territory, Story remarks: "Ceded territory becomes a part of the nation to which it is annexed on the terms stipulated in the treaty, if such terms exist, otherwise on such terms as its new master shall impose. . . But the general laws not strictly political remain as they were, until altered by the new sovereign. If the treaty stipulates that they shall enjoy the privileges, rights and immunities of citizens of the United States, the treaty as a part of the law of the land becomes obligatory in these respects."

The language of the treaty is, happily, not altogether new, but was used, in substance, in the Louisiana treaty of 1803. By the third article of that treaty it was stipulated that "the inhabitants of the ceded territory shall be incorporated in the United States and be admitted as soon as possible, according to the principles of the fede-

ral constitution, to the enjoyment of all the rights, advantages and immunities of citizens of the United States, and in the meantime they shall be maintained and protected in the enjoyment of their liberty, property and the religion they profess."

Concerning this article of the treaty, Mr Chief Justice Marshall says: "This article obviously contemplates two objects. One that Louisiana shall be admitted into the Union as soon as possible on an equal footing with the other States, and the other that till such admission the inhabitants of the ceded territory shall be protected in the free enjoyment of their liberty, property and religion. Had any one of these rights been violated while these stipulations continued in force the individual supposing himself to be injured might have brought his case into this court, under the twenty-fifth section of the judicial act. But this stipulation ceased to operate when Louisiana became a member of the Union, and its inhabitants were admitted to the enjoyment of all the rights, advantages and immunities of citizens of the United States."

Of the stipulation contained in the article, Mr. Justice Curtis says: "It clearly appears from the language of the article, and it has been decided by this court that the stipulation was temporary, and ceased to have any effect when the then inhabitants of the Territory of Louisiana, in whose behalf the stipulation was made, were incorporated into the Union." It would seem equally clear that the stipulations of the treaty would remain in full force until the complete act of Union or admission as a sovereign State was consummated.

We have seen that the people of the ceded Territory were—by a solemn compact, a supreme law, enacted more than twenty four years ago—to be speedily "admitted to the enjoyments of all the rights of citizens of the United States, according to the principles of the Constitution;" it is proper, therefore, to inquire concerning the nature of the rights conferred upon citizens by the 'principles' of that instrument. For the enjoyment of such rights we are bound to plead. Whatever the Constitution authorized, and the treaty made thereunder, stipulated, we shall demand—with this and nothing less shall we be content. Our part in the subjugation of a foreign land may be forgotten; our labors, for a quarter of a century in the wilderness, may be ignored; the bond remains. The Constitution is immortal; the treaty is for all time.

We may judge of the principles of the Constitution by the principles of its framers, and by the avowed objects of its construction. Primarily, "a more perfect union" than was provided for under the old conferation, was the result sought. To this initial object was added a provision for expansion. Madison declared as follows—and Hamilton and Jay reiterated the sentiment in many forms:

"The immediate object of the Federal Constitution is to secure the union of the thirteen primitive States, which we know to be practicable, and to add to them such others States as may arise in their own bosom or in their neighborhoods, which we cannot doubt to be equally practicable."

This power of expansion is universally admitted. On this point the Supreme Court says: "The power to expand the territory of the United States by the admission of new States, is plainly given, and in the construction of this power by all the departments of the government, it has been held to authorize the acquisition of territory, not fit for admission at the time, but to be admitted as soon as its population and situation would entitle it to admission. It is acquired to become a State, and not to be held as a colony and governed by Congress with absolute authority."

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

The blossom cannot tell what becomes of its odor, and no man can tell what becomes of his influence and example, that roll away from him and go beyond his ken on their perilous mission.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 1872.

CHANGES AND APPOINTMENTS.—Elder Robert McQuarrie is appointed to succeed Pres. J. A. Leishman in the Presidency of the Durham and Newcastle Conference, and instructed to proceed to that Conference at his earliest convenience.

Pres. J. A. Leishman is appointed to succeed Pres. John Pyper in the Presidency of the Glasgow Conference, and instructed to proceed to that Conference so soon as Elder McQuarrie is ready to succeed him.

Elder David Duncanson is appointed a Traveling Elder in the Glasgow Conference, to labor as he may desire.

Elder Jesse Gardiner is appointed a Traveling Elder in the Bristol Conference, with permission to choose his time for reporting himself to its President as ready for instructions from him.

Elders W. H. Kelsey and Joseph Wadley are appointed to travel and labor in England as may please them.

So soon as Elder David Cazier is ready to take the Presidency of the Bristol Conference, Pres. E. A. Box is appointed to proceed to Manchester to succeed Pres. G. P. Ward in the Presidency of the Manchester Conference.

ANOTHER COMPANY for Utah will leave Liverpool on Wednesday, June 26th, to be composed only of those having means of their own for their fare and expenses from their homes to Ogden or Salt Lake City, and those who may be advised from this Office. All who are thus prepared and wish to go on the 26th of June, can do so by forwarding their names and ages to this Office at least one week, so far as possible, before the day of sailing, and being in Liverpool on or before the 25th; they will not need any further notification.

At present the date of the sailing of the next company after the 26th inst. is not determined.

MARKING LUGGAGE.—Elder W. C. Staines, in a letter dated New York, May 16th, refers to this subject as follows:—"The people should be very careful in marking their baggage *Salt Lake City* or *Ogden, Utah*. Many stick a paper card on their bags or bundles, and such often get rubbed or torn off. If only Utah is left on a package it is easy to find it if missed. Of course the name of the party as well as Utah would be better, but by all means have Utah, for the reason that but few emigrants who arrive here go to Utah direct, and the officers at Castle Gardens or on the railroad can, if missing, find it so much better."

THE STEAMSHIP MANHATTAN is the vessel on which the company of Saints will sail who leave Liverpool on the 12th inst. In the event of the *Manhattan*

being prevented by any unforeseen circumstances from sailing on the appointed day, the passengers will be transferred to some other first class vessel of the Guion & Co. line.

REPORTS.—The Presidents of Conferences are particularly requested to furnish this Office with a correct Statistical Report for the half year ending June 30, 1872, and also a Financial Report for the quarter ending June 30, 1872, as early in July as possible.

ABSTRACT OF CORRESPONDENCE.

THE UNITED STATES.—Elder Geo. Q. Cannon, in a letter to Elder Geo. Reynolds, dated Washington May 15, writes—"Since the reversal of the rulings of Judge McKean, all hell seems to be stirred up, for fear, apparently, that we will now escape from their pitfalls and snares. No less than seven Bills have been introduced into Congress for the purpose of curtailing or destroying our liberties—Voorhees', Wheeler's, Bingham's, Cragin's, Burchard's, and two of Clagett's. The passage of any one of these Bills would be a monstrous injustice to Utah and her people. But this activity in proposing measures against the people of God, a hundred thousand or but little more, by the mischievous crowd who claim to represent the sentiment and civilization of forty millions, is significant. It shows how important the Church of God is becoming. I have just heard that the Senate in caucus has decided that it would prefer continuing in session until July 10th. Should such a time for adjournment be fixed upon, there will in all probability be something put through on Utah, unless the State should be admitted. But let them work. They can do nothing against the work of God. This is consolatory."

LONDON CONFERENCE.—Elder David Brinton, writing on the 28th ult., amongst other things says—"I have lately visited Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Wight, also Southampton and Portsmouth, and had the privilege of seeing most of the Saints in all these places. The Branch at Portsmouth is a very good one; the Saints, almost to an individual, are alive to their duties, which fact is largely owing to the diligence of the Priesthood of the Branch. I find in almost every case that the healthy condition of a Branch must be credited greatly to the energy of the presiding officer and his associates in the Priesthood. 'As with the priest so with the people,' holds good in more than one instance, but I am thankful to be able to state that in this respect I have but very little to complain of, as most of the Presidents of the Branches in this Conference are the right men in the right places. Since President Grant, Judge McKean and others have become so desperately exercised in spreading 'Mormonism,' a spirit of inquiry has been awakened, so much so that since *Reynolds' Newspaper* kindly informed the public that if they desired to learn the truth about the 'Mormons' in Utah they could do so through the MILLLNNIAL STAR, I have received a number of letters from gentlemen wishing me to send them the STAR, which I have very promptly done."

SWITZERLAND.—Elder Edward Schoenfeld reports to us that a Conference of the Bern and Jura district was held in the Latter-day Saints' meeting-hall at Bern, on May 19th, at which Elders E. Schoenfeld, John Huber and C. H. Wilcken from Zion were present. The first meeting was converted into a

general Priesthood meeting, as there was a great amount of business to be transacted. Having so many brethren from the West Swiss district together, the Elders from Zion took the opportunity to correct many errors in the Statistical Reports, and quite a number of persons who had not been heard of during the last five or six years, were separated from the Church, and many wholesome instructions were given to the Priesthood. At the second meeting the Authorities of the Church, as also the Authorities of the European and Swiss Mission were laid before the Conference and unanimously sustained, after which the Saints partook of the Lord's Supper. Elder Schoenfeld spoke on the necessity of entering into the Church by the right gate, a neglect of which was the forerunner of apostacy. Elder Wilcken exhorted the Saints to show that love without which we could not be true disciples of Jesus, for a perfect union has to exist between all the members as it exists between the Father and the Son. Elder Huber spoke on the necessity of reading those Church works which had been translated into the German language, and as extracts from the best works were therein contained, they must of necessity be very instructive to the lovers of truth. At the evening meeting much good instruction was given, and the Saints throughout felt that they had spent a very profitable day, and went to their various homes with a full determination to continue serving the Lord.

HOLLAND.—Elder S. Van Dyk writing to us from Derenter on the 27th ult., says—"The work of the Lord makes very slow progress in Holland. The sectarian priests are doing all they can to prejudice the minds of the people against our faith. I am now in Derenter, and spoke yesterday in public, but the priest here had warned the inhabitants not to listen to the 'Mormons.' But we shall triumph. The Lord is with us; it is his work and he will help us. Last evening I baptized a lady; she is the fourth baptized in this city since my arrival on my mission; she rejoices much in having received the forgiveness of sins, and thanks the Lord therefor. We are enjoying the Holy Spirit in our ministrations, which is a surprise to many of the people here, for they do not understand the mission and power of the everlasting Gospel."

MINUTES OF A CONFERENCE

HELD IN THE GLASGOW HALL, SLANEY STREET, BIRMINGHAM, MAY 26, 1872.

Elders from Utah present—Albert Carrington, President of the European Mission; B. W. Briggs, Pres. of the Birmingham; J. R. Fairbanks, Pres. of the Nottingham; R. Harrison, Pres. of the Sheffield, and E. A. Box, Pres of the Bristol Conferences; David O. Calder, John Mendenhall, Joseph Wadley and Thos. W. Jennings; also Thomas Morley, Traveling Elder in the Nottingham Conference.

10 30 a.m.

Elder Driggs briefly reported the condition of the Conference, and stated he found the Saints composing it, as a whole, living their religion. He then read the Statistical and Financial Reports of the Conference, the one showing that it was composed of 942 officers and members, the other that it had a balance of £5 4s. 3d. in the hands of its treasurer.

The Authorities of the Church were next presented to the assembled Saints and sustained by their unanimous votes; after which Elder T. H. Robinson reported the Birmingham, R. Sharp the Wolverhampton, A. Wootton the Dudley, F. Reynolds the Coventry,

J Godrich the Chasetown, J. Sanager the Stafford, T. Cuttler the Stourbridge, and J. Hinde the Ridgeway Cross Branches as being in good condition

Elder Thomas Morley addressed the meeting on the necessity of living prophets and present revelation, confirming his views by the Scriptures, and adding thereto his personal testimony.

Elder Joseph Wadley bore testimony to the spirit of revelation which he knew guided the leaders of the Church and that they were men who were laboring for the salvation of the human family. He was followed by Elders J. Mendenhall and T. W. Jennings, who briefly bore testimony to their knowledge of the divinity of the Gospel.

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2 p.m.

Elder R. Harrison addressed the Saints on the law of tithing, its requirements and blessings, and the necessity of gathering to the land of Zion.

Elder E A. Box spoke of the benefits arising from observing the "Word of Wisdom," especially to the rising generation in the Church.

Elder D. O. Calder spoke of his long experience in the Church, and of his associations with the servants of the Lord in Zion, and urged the Saints to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, that they might be prepared to receive its many blessings.

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6 p.m.

President Albert Carrington occupied the evening in an eloquent and instructive address on various topics of importance.

The Hall was crowded at each meeting and an excellent spirit prevailed. On the Monday evening (27th) a concert was held in the Hockley Chapel, which was well attended and a decided success.

T. H. Robinson, Clerk.

CHAPTERS FROM THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 347.

We take the following letter from the history of President Young, as it will show very clearly the condition of feeling which existed in the State of Illinois respecting the murder of the Prophet Joseph, and also describes very clearly the feelings of the Saints and their quiet and patient submission to the operation of the laws as administered by those entrusted with office. The letter is addressed to Josiah Lamborn, Esq., Attorney General of Illinois. It was written by Brother Geo. A. Smith, and his father John Smith.

"Sir: We are this evening informed by Mr. Scott that it is your wish, as prosecuting attorneys vs. the murderers of the Gens. Smith, that the Mormons should hunt up the witnesses in the case, and that Mr. Murray McConnell had conveyed the idea that there was a committee in the county whose business it was to collect and arrange the testimony against the day of trial, and that said committee are supposed to be Mormons, &c. &c.

"Now, Sir, in behalf of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; or, if you choose, the Mormon fraternity, we beg leave to state to you what has been often reiterated by us, and which is a well known fact, both to our people and the State, viz. that the difficulty causing the pending trials is not between the Mormons and the Anti-Mormons, nor between the Mormons and the murderers; but it is between the State and the prisoners, or offenders.

"To show our loyalty to the institutions of our country and preserve peace in the country, as a people, we pledged ourselves to abide the operations of the law as directed by the proper authorities of the commonwealth; and that we would abide the decisions of the court, not taking vengeance into our own hands, (as was then feared by some,) or commencing prosecutions, to which we have strictly adhered, and intend still to adhere, that our pledge may be honorably redeemed in the

sight of all men, although we have been strongly solicited to enter the field of prosecution, and that too by the State or her agents; for instance when Mr. McConnell was engaged in preparation for the prosecution he came to Nauvoo and strongly solicited the Mormons to come out as complainants and assist in procuring witnesses, &c.; but we replied that we had nothing to do with the affair and wanted nothing to do with it; and for us to enlist in attempting to bring the murderers to justice, no matter how legal in our own movements it would be construed into a persecution, or a desire to pick a quarrel on our part, which we were and still are determined to avoid, even every appearance of evil, and cut off every occasion of our enemies or of those who are ready to seize upon any pretext to make us trouble.

"We are decidedly for peace, and we ever have been, and as the murders were committed while the murdered were in the immediate charge of the State, all we ask is that the State will prosecute the case to final judgment and redeem her pledge, as we have ours; or if she choose to abandon the prosecution we shall submit peaceably, although for public good we would prefer that justice should take place.

"We are unacquainted with the statutes which suffer indicted murderers to roam at large month after month without arrest, or after delivery or surrender to run at pleasure before trial, and we know not what other similar laws we might come in contact with and be liable to break to our own endangering or disadvantage should we attempt to have anything to do with the case in question.

"It is reported to us, true or false we know not, that the Sheriff of Hancock County and his deputies have been forbidden by the court to act in the pending trials, and that the jurors have been discharged without empanelling. If this be true we are unacquainted with the statutes in the case and have nothing to say.

"When Mr. McConnell was here last Fall, at his earnest solicitation we collected all the information in our possession and presented the same to him, supposing he would prosecute the case to final judgment. He took minutes at the time and probably has them now if he has not handed them over, of which you must be acquainted better than we, and of which we did not preserve minutes: we know of no new information since that period.

"We were happy to hear that the trials had been committed to your able charge, and anticipated that you would have made us a visit before the sitting of the court; and we still anticipate that after court you will make us a visit that you may have the pleasure of a more general acquaintance among our citizens, and we feel confident that such a visit would be highly appreciated by our friend, Gen. Young, with whom we understand you are acquainted.

"We shall be ever ready in favoring the ends of right so far as we can do it and not give any occasion of excitement which would be detrimental to public peace.

We are Sir,
Most Respectfully,
Your Servants,
GEO. A. SMITH.
JOHN SMITH."

On the 19th of May, 1845, the trials of some of the murderers of the Prophet and Patriarch Joseph and Hyrum, commenced at Carthage, Hon. Richard M. Young of Quincy, on the bench. The men indicted by the Grand Jury for these murders were: Colonel Levi Williams a Baptist preacher, Thomas C. Sharp, Editor of the *Warsaw Signal*, Jacob C. Davis, State Senator, Mark Aldrich and William N. Grover. They were held to bail, with themselves as sureties, in the sum of one thousand dollars each, to make their appearance in the Court each day of the term. To secure a suitable jury to answer their purpose, the accused had recourse to an extraordinary proceeding. They made two affidavits asking for the array of jurors to be quashed on the ground that the County Commissioners, the Sheriff and his deputies in impanneling the jury had the design to hurt and prejudice the trial and thus endanger the lives of the accused. The lawyers on both sides argued the question, but the Judge ruled that the panel should be quashed, and that the County Commissioners, the Sheriff and his deputies be discharged and Elisors be appointed for the purpose of choosing another

jury. Two men were appointed by the Court as Elisors, and they selected the jurors. Out of ninety-six men who were summoned to act in this capacity twelve were found who were satisfactory to the defence.

The guilt of the prisoners was clearly shown to the Court and bystanders by the prosecuting attorney; but despite the evidence brought against them they were "honorably acquitted" by the jury. This result had been anticipated by the Saints. A vote of the City Council had been taken in the previous month of July, to the effect that when the law failed to atone for the blood of the Prophet and Patriarch they would refer the case to God for a righteous judgment. It would be an unheard of event for the murderers of prophets to be punished by the law for the crime of shedding their blood. A generation which will suffer servants of God to be slain in their midst is not the one to punish their slayers. One of the lawyers for the accused, Calvin A. Warren, stated in his remarks that "if the prisoners were guilty of murder then he himself was guilty. He alleged that it was the public opinion that the Smiths ought to be killed, and public opinion made the laws, consequently it was not murder to kill them!".

Strange doctrine this; but it is the doctrine of the persecutors and murderers of the Saints in all ages. What prophet was ever murdered whose death was not sanctified by public opinion? Even the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus was sanctioned by public opinion. But that did not lessen the blackness of the crime in the sight of the Lord. He did not consider the Jews innocent of murder because public opinion was in favor of the violent and bloody act. He punished them as murderers. It is useless to look to earthly tribunals to execute the law upon this class; they never punish this crime; but the Lord does. The blood of innocence does not cry in vain unto Him from the ground, and the State which acquitted the murderers of the Prophet and Patriarch Joseph and Hyrum Smith, will yet have a heavy penalty to pay for this great and terrible wrong. "Vengeance is mine," saith the Lord, "and I will repay." When His vengeance falls upon a people it comes with crushing effect, but before the weight of His displeasure falls upon them to their utter overthrow, they must fill the cup of their iniquity.

During these days President Young and others of the Apostles had to conceal themselves to avoid being arrested. Constables and other officers from Carthage frequently came to Nauvoo with writs, but they were not successful in serving them. The charges on which these writs were issued were groundless. The Twelve Apostles were innocent of the wrongs laid to their charge; but the design in issuing legal process against them was to harass and annoy them—to get them into the power of the mob—that they might be killed as Joseph and Hyrum had been.

MAY DAY EXCURSION.

(From the Ogden Junction, May 4th.)

Last Wednesday morning Presidents B. Young, George A. Smith and D. H. Wells, with several officers of the U. C. and U. S. Railroads, the released prisoners and their wives, and many other ladies and gentlemen from Salt Lake arrived here on the morning train on their way to visit the Utah Northern Railroad. Having bid farewell to the missionaries who started east, the party joined by President Richards, Bishop Herrick and others from this city, passed on to the C. P. line, arrangements having been specially made through the courtesy of Supt. James Campbell.

It was a lovely day and all on board enjoyed the trip. Spring, dressed in her brightest green raiment, sported in the sun, and the sparkling lake danced and rippled as in sympathetic glee, and its broad bosom glittered with myriads of liquid gems, dazzling yet glorious to behold.

Arriving at the junction the "John W. Young," a neat, spicy little locomotive—narrow guage, but none of your weak instruments—with several small cars, was waiting for the company, who were soon rattling along the Utah Northern, admiring its smoothness, and thinking a heap more of narrow guage railways than most of them had been accustomed to. When opposite Brigham City, Pres. Snow, Bishop Nichols, Judge Smith and a number of other Brighamites who had just been apprised of the visit, came down to meet the company. The Sunday school children in charge of Mr. Jas. Bywater, formed in a line in front of the cars and gave three cheers for Pres. Young and his friends, and three more for the Utah Northern and its worthy President John W. Young.

Returning to the junction it was discovered that a May-day party had been arranged at that place for the Sunday school children of the county who came in troops from Willard and Three Mile Creek, and afterwards on the U. N. cars from Brigham, till about 750 gathered on the ground with banners, flags and mottoes around a flower decorated Maypole. Then came a dozen young maidens dressed in white and crowned with flowers, bands of music, the Brigham City choir, and a host of friends, about twelve hundred persons in all being present. Pres. Young's visit was quite unexpected, but as soon as it was known he was requested to address them.

Mr. Chas Wright, school teacher at Willard was Master of the Ceremonies, and explained the change in the programme. After prayer the children sang "The Volunteers," led by Prof. Fishburne.

Pres. Geo. A. Smith then made a brief speech. Commenting on the number of children present he said he did not believe that such an assemblage could be got up in one locality with equal population anywhere else. He exhorted parents to be zealous in the matter of educating the children. Referred to the deliverance of the servants of the Lord from their enemies, and urged all present to be industrious in developing and beautifying the country.

Pres D H. Wells followed. Alluding to the inscription on one of the banners, "The race is not to the swift nor the battle to the strong," he spoke of the attempt at judicial murder from which the servants of God had escaped, through the faith of the people. The honor of this great deliverance belonged to the Lord, who was building up His Kingdom here, though but a few realized it.

Brigham City choir sang, "We thank Thee O God for a Prophet."

Pres Young then briefly addressed the assembly, expressing his pleasure at this unexpected meeting. He advised parents to act as they wished their children to act, never to lose their temper, but to speak words of wisdom and affection; exhorted the children to obey their parents in the Lord, but would not counsel them to follow a wicked example in any one; told them to be kind to each other on every occasion and speak and act as they wished others to do to them, and invoked the blessing of God upon them.

After another song from the children an adjournment took place for an hour. On re-assembling, Miss Mary Warner of Willard was crowned Queen of the May, and with her maids of honor was led out to dance around the May-pole.

At 2 45 the train started on the return trip. The school children were treated to a ride on the Utah Northern, and spent the rest of the day in various innocent games. Arriving at Ogden at 4 o'clock the party visited the R. R. Depots and in the city till the regular evening train started, when they left for Salt Lake, satisfied and pleased with the day's pleasure, and the Utah Northern, the pioneer narrow guage railroad of Utah, which is in a fair way to connect with Logan by the 1st of August, and will prove a great boon to this city, and to the whole region of the North.

That person has the greatest honor and purest morals who is ready to pardon all mistakes in other people, as if he himself offended daily, and at the same time so vigorously abstains from all appearance of evil as if he forgave nobody.

UTAH NEWS.

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The following are from the *Deseret News* to May 8.

A. C. writing from Brigham City, April 28, says—"Between Brigham City and Call's Fort, and near Bear River, there is a large co-operative farm, upon which during some days of last week about sixty teams were at work In seasons when rain is moderately plentiful good crops of wheat can be raised close to the river without irrigation. The U. N. R. R. hands are busily at work; track laying however will be delayed a short time on account of a portion of the grade having been washed away about two miles north of Brigham City."

H. A. S. wrote from Paradise, Cache county—"Two days' meetings were held in this Ward on Saturday and Sunday, April 27th and 28th, Bishop O. N. Liljenquist presiding. There were present—Bishops Wm. Maughan, Henry Hughes, Milton Hammond, and George O Pitkin; also Elders G. Walker, C. Larsen, C. C. Shaw and T. Parkinson. Much valuable instruction was given upon the every day duties of the Latter-day Saints."

The following expression made by Hon. Mr. Sargent, of California, in the House of Representatives, April 27th, as reported in the *Congressional Globe*, serves to show the estimation in which certain dispatches from Salt Lake are held in Congress—"Now, I wish to say with reference to the press dispatches from San Francisco which I hold in my hands, that they are utterly unreliable. It could not reasonably be expected under the circumstances well known to myself, and in view of the authorship of those dispatches and their *animus*, that they would be any more reliable upon this question than would be a dispatch from Salt Lake on the Mormon question."

The following are from the Salt Lake *Herald* to May 9.

The waters of the Ogden and Weber rivers were rising rapidly and threatening damage.

The laying of the track for the street railroad in Salt Lake City was to have commenced May 7.

The Deseret Telegraph Company had commenced the construction of a new line from Beaver to Minersville; thence to Star district and Pioche.

A Company had been formed for the purpose of constructing a narrow guage railroad from Salt Lake City to Pioche *via* Tooele, Rush Valley, Camp Floyd, Tintic and the Sevier Valley.

The Herald moralizes thus—"The retail oath market has been lower lately than we had any idea of, as we learned night before last of a man some weeks previous having secured an oath to order for twenty five dollars. We understand too that oaths charging innocent men with capital crimes were purchasable some time ago as low as fifty dollars, with considerable discount where a number were required. These quotations we think may be relied on as correct and will give an idea of about how much it cost to procure certain indictments."

THE MORMON QUESTION.—Mr. George Q. Cannon, editor of the organ of the Mormon Church, appeared before the House Committee on Territories day before yesterday, and made an argument in favor of the immediate admission of Utah as a State. He argued that justice and wisdom required that Utah should be admitted just as other Territories have been, without reference to the religious and domestic institutions of her people, and that the question of polygamy should be allowed to settle itself.—*Washington Star, April 27th.*

A PARADISE.—For peaceful prosperity, for quiet, homelike comfort, for lack of ruffianly element, and for the practice by its inhabitants of the widest and most far-reaching description of true Christian love, Salt Lake City undoubtedly holds a place more exalted than does any other municipality in the whole broad land.—*Philadelphia Press.*